

# **NATIONAL STAND DOWN DAY FOR FIREFIGHTER SAFETY AND HEALTH**

DC FIRE AND EMS ENGINE COMPANY 3  
439 NEW JERSEY AVE NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

11 A.M. MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2005  
**CHIEF PAULISON TALKING POINTS**

## **1. Introduction**

- a. Thank you for having me here today
- b. I was hoping to be able to introduce Under  
Secretary Brown today
  - i. Unfortunately, events at FEMA have  
prevented him from attending
  - ii. He did want me to pass along his thanks and  
appreciation for your efforts today and  
support for National Stand Down Day

1. U/S Brown will be participating in Stand  
Down activities tomorrow in Loudon  
County

## 2. History

- a. From the very founding of this great nation
  - i. Residents have faced the threats and  
destruction of fire...
    1. In their homes and businesses
  - ii. Throughout our nation's history
    1. When residents are threatened
    2. Firefighters are called
      - a. And they always respond
- b. One need only go back 3.5 year to September 11,  
2001 to know the commitment and dedication  
firefighters have always had, and will continue to

have to the safety and well being of their communities.

c. Throughout our history

i. The men and women of America's fire service have been injured

ii. Given their lives

1. Paid the ultimate sacrifice

iii. Protecting our families

d. Just since 1981, this nation has recognized and remembered over 2000 firefighters lost in the line of duty.

### **3. Currently:**

a. As of this morning, in 2005.....58 firefighters have lost their lives in the line of duty.

b. With a national average of just over 100 firefighters lost each year

- i. We can only suspect we will once again bear witness to another 100 lost this year.

- c. Let me make this clear

- i. These numbers are absolutely unacceptable!!!

- 1. And these deaths are preventable

- 2. Too many can be attributed to simple mistakes and safety breaches

- ii. And most of these firefighter deaths can be linked to health and fitness issues

- 1. In fact, 49 of 107 deaths in 2004 were the result of heart attacks

#### **4. Conclusion:**

- a. Just a few short years ago I had the horrific task of informing a family their firefighter was never coming home.

**b.** There are several in this room today, that have also  
faced this responsibility that is feared by all fire  
chiefs in this nation.

**c.** When a firefighter is lost

**i.** And we inform a family

**ii.** Not only are the contributions to their  
families

**iii.** Department and communities of the  
firefighter ended

**iv.** But all future contributions of the firefighter  
are ceased forever.

**d.** Today, all of you are distinguishing yourselves as  
leaders in the future of the fire service

**i.** By participating in National Stand Down Day  
for firefighter safety and health

**ii.** You and thousands of our brothers and sisters  
across this great nation

**1.** Are taking the lead in ensuring that  
everyone goes home

**2.** One example of the fire service taking  
action is Pennsylvania

**a.** The State with the highest number  
of firefighter deaths

**3.** Pennsylvania has just adopted all 16  
firefighter safety initiatives  
recommended by the National Fallen  
Firefighters Memorial Foundation and  
the USFA

**4.** This is an example of just one great step  
in guarding against firefighter deaths

e. Today the fire service is being called upon to not only protect their communities

i. But also to protect their own and make sure that every time

1. The engine

2. Or Truck

3. Or Squad answers the call

4. “Everyone goes home”

f. I am honored to stand with the

i. IAFC

ii. NFFF

iii. NVFC

iv. IAFF

v. And so many other great organizations

g. To support a national effort to reduce firefighter deaths by

1. 25% over the next 5 years
2. 50% over the next 10 years
3. And to reduce preventable and needless injuries to firefighters.

**h.** But we are not standing alone

**i.** In the last two years, the Department of Homeland Security has worked to strengthen first responders on the local level

**i.** Because you are the ones most likely to come face to face with the widest variety of hazards

**ii.** From house fires and car accidents

**iii.** To natural disasters and terrorism

**iv.** The department has provided more than \$14 billion to train and equip first responders



1. The U.S. Fire Administration alone has  
trained more than 600,000 first  
responders across the country
- v. DHS/FEMA will continue to work with first  
responders across the country to make our  
nation
  1. Safer
  2. Stronger
  3. And more prepared
  4. I am again honored to stand here today  
and join with you to ensure every  
firefighter goes home
- j. May God protect our firefighters today
  - i. And may God bless this great nation